

S. Africans Seek U.S. Angola Aid

By David B. Ottaway

Washington Post Foreign Service

LUSAKA, Zambia, Nov. 25—South Africa has asked the United States and other Western countries to become more open in their support of Western-backed forces in the Angolan civil war and to increase the supplies of advanced weapons flowing into the country, Western diplomats here say.

South Africa is said to feel that its widely known intervention in the civil war has left it exposed and that it is time for other powers that have been covertly supplying the foes of the Soviet-backed group in Angola to come into the open. The European countries sharing with the United States in the secret arms effort are known to include France, Belgium and West Germany.

The precise nature of the increased aid that South Africa is requesting is not known, but the South Africans have been expressing fear that the next major move by the hard-pressed, Soviet-supplied Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola will be to call Cuban or Soviet-piloted jets and Soviet anti-aircraft missiles into action.

This comes as South African-backed troops driving northward toward the Popular

ANGOLA. From Al Movement-held capital of Luanda are reported to have captured many bases and to have been stalled in their efforts.

It is now regarded as virtually certain here that South Africa is playing a major role in the mercenary effort against Maya, South African regular soldiers, possibly hundreds of them, are believed to be involved in the fighting along with hundreds of white mercenaries of many nationalities.

South Africa faces a major decision itself, whether to escalate its own involvement and to hand over its support of the military campaign against the Popular Movement.

The attitude of other Western powers, particularly the United States, over whether to escalate their assistance could be a crucial factor in the South African decision.

U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, speaking in Detroit yesterday, warned that the United States "cannot remain indifferent" to Soviet and Cuban intervention in Angola.

Diplomatic sources here believe that both the Popular Movement and its two rivals, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola and The National Front for the Liberation of Angola (UNITA), are on the point of bringing jet fighters into the warfare.

Both the National Union and other diplomatic sources report that the Popular Movement has as many as a dozen Soviet-provided Mig jet fighters based in Congo-Brazzaville, north of Angola.

The National Union says that as many as 400 officers and soldiers of the Popular Movement were sent to Soviet bloc countries for training early this year and that some were to become Mig pilots.

Most observers here doubt, however, that the Popular Movement yet has the trained manpower to fly either the Mig 17 or the more

sophisticated Mig 21 and that Cuban, Soviet or Portuguese pilots would have to fly them.

The other two nationalist groups are known to have only small civilian aircraft, including several Fokker 27 passenger planes stolen from the Angolan civilian airline shortly before independence.

But Zairian and South African C-130 cargo transports which are American-made, have been used to ferry war materiel from South African-administered Namibia and Zaire to National Front and UNITA bases in northern and southern Angola.

Jet fighters provided to South Africa and Zaire by various Western countries, including France and the United States, could be used to counter any introduction of Mig aircraft.

"We may shortly be seeing French mirages from South Africa tangling with Soviet Migs," remarked one Western diplomat here.

One of South Africa's main concerns, as Western diplomats here understand it, is the almost certain introduction of ground-to-air missiles into the Angolan civil war.

UNITA alleges that the Popular Movement already has been supplied by the Soviet Union with SA-7 heat-seeking anti-aircraft missiles as well as wire-guided missiles for the defense of the Angolan capital against air attacks.

Journalists who attended independence celebrations in Luanda Nov. 11 saw only conventional 50-mm aircraft guns mounted on jeeps and what appeared to be Soviet rocket batteries under cover in trucks.

But the Popular Movement is apparently receiving in Luanda a steady flow of Soviet war materiel by ship and plane. A British Broadcasting Corp. reporter said in a report from the Angolan capital yesterday that a Soviet cargo plane and two Soviet ships had just arrived there with arms.

According to UNITA intelligence reports, the Soviet Union has for months been flying arms into Maya Maya, a military base just north of the Congolese capital of Brazzaville, and shipping in war supplies to Pointe Noir, Congo's main port.

These arms are being transhipped to the Popular Movement in the capital and in the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda, according to these reports.

UNITA also says that it captured 20 Soviet military personnel and 35 Cubans in a battle early last week for Malange, a strategic town on the east-west highway running across north-central Angola, which the Popular Movement controls.

The Soviet Union has vehemently denied UNITA claims of direct Soviet involvement and the Popular Movement says Malange is still in their hands. No Western journalist has verified that UNITA is in fact holding Soviet nationals prisoner, although reporters have seen some Cubans.

The reported South African request for open military assistance coincides with reports from southern Angola that the white mercenaries and South African soldiers leading the UNITA and National Front columns have suffered heavy casualties. Foreign doctors are now being urgently sought to look after the wounded, the reports say.

A hospital at Vouga, 15 miles north of the UNITA stronghold of Silva Porto, is said to be filled with wounded white soldiers.

There are other indications that the mercenary-led column has run into serious trouble in its bold attempt to march more than 1,100 miles from Namibia to Luanda.

—The UNITA office here has announced no new towns seized from the Popular Movement for almost a week.

—UNITA and National Front claims that they had captured Porto Amboim north of Novo Redondo several weeks ago are now regarded here by diplomats and journalists as false.

It is still uncertain whether Malange really has been taken from the Popular Movement, as UNITA announced last week.

The Popular Movement vehemently denies that either Porto Amboim or Malange are in the hands of its rivals.

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S. African Regulars Fight Inside Angola

WTF
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By Fred Bridgland
Reuter

LUSAKA, Zambia—South African regular troops are fighting many hundreds of miles inside Angola to counter Soviet shipments of at least \$110 million in arms to the Angolan faction now controlling the capital at Luanda, informed diplomatic sources here say.

The South African presence has been denied both by officials in Pretoria, the South African capital, and the Angolan liberation movement benefiting most from the South African involvement, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

But the several sources that provided information on the South African involvement said Pretoria's reluctance to admit its participation in the Angolan war stemmed from

high-level divisions of opinion on the extent to which South Africa should involve itself in the Angolan crisis.

South African Foreign Minister Hilgard Muller said his country had provided troops and equipment in Angola "to defend laborers and material" at the Cunene hydroelectric project on the border with the South African-administered territory of South-West Africa (Namibia).

But the diplomatic sources here said South Africa faced a real dilemma when, by mid-1973, intelligence about the Angolan conflict showed that the well-supplied Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola was sweeping aside both UNITA and a third warring faction, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

The sources said high-level arguments continue in South Africa about the policy to be adopted toward Angola. At the moment, officials favoring South African military involvement are winning the day, the sources said.

(Moscow has denounced "massive intervention" in Angola by South Africa, and South African Defense Minister Pet Botha countered Saturday by accusing Russia not only of intervening but of bringing in Cubans as well. He said, according to Agence France-Presse, that the South African troops who were posted 18 miles inside the border at the hydroelectric project had been there for several months with the prior knowledge of the Portuguese government.)

The major argument of those advocating such a commitment is the degree of Soviet involvement, and the sources in Lusaka said Moscow has supplied arms worth at least 100 million dollars to the left-wing Popular Movement

since last November 3.

Sources said the equipment included more than 350 armored vehicles and light amphibious tanks. Heavy Soviet weapons included anti-aircraft guns, 120-mm rocket launchers and rockets, recoilless rifles, mortars and grenade launchers.

Tens of thousands of small arms have been supplied by Russia, including Kalashnikov assault rifles and semi-automatic Simonov carbines, the sources in Lusaka said. There are also between 12 and 15 Soviet MIG-21 fighter bombers based on Congo-Brazzaville, but there is no evidence that these have yet entered the conflict, said the sources.

Six hundred tons of Soviet military equipment were now in the Tanzanian port of Dar Es-Salaam awaiting transshipment to the Popular Movement in Luanda, the sources said.

Also in Dar Es-Salaam harbor was the Soviet ship Valery Mezhlauk, carrying 785 tons of arms for the Namibian liberation movement SWAPO (the South-West African People's Organization), according to the ship's manifest. It was believed these arms were in fact intended for the Popular Movement.

The \$110 million worth of Soviet arms supplied to the Popular Movement in the last year compared with \$54 million worth sent to the movement by Russia over the previous 14 years, the sources said.

The sources said it was impossible to state the size of the South African military force involved in Angola. They did say that many of the drivers of armored cars in the columns heading toward Luanda were members of the South African army, and

probably all of the armored cars were South African, but that there were no South African infantrymen inside Angola.

The sources said the forces were being supplied from permanent South African military bases on the South-West African border with Angola. Regular airlifts of military equipment were made deep into Angola by C-130 transport aircraft.

The South Africans had established an operations base at the southern Angolan town of Sa Da Bandeira and had begun to establish an advanced logistics base within 350 miles of Luanda, the sources here said.

In the Angolan port of Lobito, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi denied that South African regular troops were with UNITA. But he said that there were white soldiers.

"I need people to fight with armored cars that we cannot

operate ourselves," Savimbi said. "Maybe they are South African, Rhodesian, but there are more French mercenaries who fought in Biafra here."

"The Popular Movement had the Russians with them. We had to address ourselves to people who could match them."

He also said: "None of these foreigners with us marches on foot with a rifle in his hand."

Savimbi said he pleaded 12 months ago with Western nations to give him aid to counter a Soviet-backed Popular Movement build-up.

Sources in Lusaka said the entire Benguela railway through Angola was now in UNITA hands. They said the objective was to get the railway—which is of key importance to landlocked Zambia and southern Zaire—operating again as soon as possible. The railway has been closed for more than three months.

Tass Denies Report Of Angola Capture

Agence France-Presse

The Soviet news agency Tass yesterday issued a strong denial that 20 Russians had been captured in Angola.

A spokesman for the Angolan faction UNITA said on Friday that the Russians and 35 Cubans had been captured in a battle for the Angolan town of Malange. He said the Russians were supporting the leftist Popular Movement faction, and that Malange had fallen. Tass called the report "a monstrous lie" aimed at diverting world attention from the fact that UNITA receives support from "South African racists, Maoists and other imperialist forces."

A Popular Movement spokesman in the Angolan capital of Luanda meantime denied that Malange, which is 250 miles east of Luanda, had fallen.